

January 19, 2001

FACT SHEET

FINAL RULE AMENDMENT FOR NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS: GROUP IV POLYMERS AND RESINS

TODAY'S ACTION

- !** The EPA is issuing a final rule amendment to indefinitely stay the compliance date for affected sources producing poly(ethylene terephthalate) (PET) using the continuous terephthalic acid (TPA) high viscosity multiple end finisher process.

BACKGROUND

- !** In 1996, EPA issued its air toxics rule applying to the production of a number of resins, including PET. As it developed that rule, the Agency established two categories of producers that use the continuous TPA process to produce PET. The categories are:
 - < (1) continuous terephthalic acid processes producing PET utilizing a multiple end finisher production process; and
 - < (2) all other continuous TPA acid processes producing PET.
- !** EPA knows of only one facility (the Honeywell Corporation in Moncure, N.C.) that uses the continuous TPA, multiple end finisher process. Under the current air toxics rule, this facility must comply with a 4 percent ethylene glycol concentration limit by Feb. 27, 2001.
- !** In November 1996, the KoSa Corporation (formerly Hoechst Celanese Corporation) petitioned EPA to reconsider the ethylene glycol concentration limit for the Honeywell plant. KoSa argued that EPA should set a single ethylene glycol emissions limit for process contact cooling towers (PCCT) for all PET producers using the continuous TPA process.
- !** On August 29, 2000, the EPA published a direct final rule and a parallel proposal to indefinitely stay the compliance date for the PCCT provisions for existing affected sources producing poly(ethylene terephthalate) using the continuous TPA high viscosity multiple end finisher process. The stay was to be issued because EPA was in the process of responding to the request to reconsider relevant portions of the NESHAP for Group IV Polymers and Resins that might result in changes to the emission limitation which applies to PCCT in this subcategory. It was unlikely that the reconsideration process would be complete before actions were necessary to comply with the current PCCT standard.
- !** On September 20, 2000, EPA received an adverse comment and therefore withdrew the direct final rule that would have issued an indefinite stay of its air toxics regulatory requirements for certain process contact cooling towers at certain facilities producing poly(ethylene

terephthalate) (PET) resins.

- ! The commenter stated that they recognized the need for a compliance stay while EPA considered its petition; however, an indefinite stay to the compliance date was unreasonable and unwarranted in their judgement.
- ! Although the commenter filed an adverse comment, in a subsequent letter they withdrew their objection to the indefinite stay of the compliance date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! To download the stay notice from EPA's World Wide Web site, go to "Recent Actions" at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. The stay notice also is available from the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, by telephone (202) 260-7548, or by electronic mail at a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov. The docket number is A-92-45 for Group IV Polymers and Resins.
- ! For questions on the stay notice, contact Mr. Robert Rosensteel of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5608 and electronic mail: rosensteel.bob@epa.gov.
- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.